

# TRANSPORTATION SECTOR: BICYCLE POLICE PATROL

## ◆ OHIO

### Police Bicycle Patrol: Protecting Both People and the Environment

The City of Dayton's Police Bicycle Patrol (DPBP) was launched in 1989 as an effort to improve the Police Department's ability to effectively serve and protect the citizens of Dayton. The Dayton Police Department, with 500 sworn officers, serves a population of 184,000 people. In 1989, when pedestrian drug sales ushered in the decline of a downtown neighborhood, the Commander of the NW District allowed two officers to try patrolling the neighborhood on bicycles. After a few short months, neighborhood groups began praising the officers for cleaning up the area-and thus, the Dayton Police Bicycle Patrol was born.



Building upon its initial success, in 1990 the Bike Patrol expanded to 25 full-time officers operating throughout the City's five policing districts. Each Bike Patrol officer works the same shift as other officers who drive cars, ride motorcycles, ride horses, or walk. Because the Bike Patrol was supported from the "top down," the police department has never had any problems with funding or perception. The DPBP has even co-authored an international certification program called the "Police Cyclist Course," which has become the worldwide standard in Police Cycling, having taught more than 2,000 students from over 600 law enforcement agencies around the world. The DPBP program has also proved to be a boon for the environment, as it replaces several fossil fuel-burning police cruisers with pollution-free bicycles.

### Results:

The DPBP has equipped 25 Bike Patrol officers for slightly more than the cost of a single patrol car. The department saves an estimated \$27,000 each year in patrol car fuel and maintenance costs. The increased effectiveness of patrolling neighborhood streets by bicycle has resulted in an arrest rate higher than the departmental average. The DPBP is helping the environment as well, by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from police transportation by an estimated 1.9 MTCE\* annually, which is equivalent to the emissions of six patrol cars, each driving 12,500 miles a year.

Cost Benefits	Greenhouse Gas Reductions
\$27,000/yr (fuel & maintenance costs)	1.9 MTCE*/yr

### Principal Actors:

Dayton Police Department.

### Additional Information:

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This case study is based on information provided by Allan Howard, Dayton Police Academy.

\*Original data have been converted from short tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent (MTCE).